

REMARKS

The drawings have been amended to remove non-appropriate ancillary markings such as dimensions and axis lines. Corrections have also been made to some of the reference numbers where appropriate for correspondence with the specification.


The amended paragraphs of the specification particularly detail the difference between the pelletizer housing bearing 6, and the pelletizer cap bearing 6', with relation to Figure 1. Additional amendments have been made to indicate which Figures show particular features of the invention.

The amended appendix of the reference numbers has been amended to reference the general underwater pelletized 1, and to indicate the two bearings: the pelletizer housing bearing 6; and the pelletizer cap bearing 6'.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

By: _____


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JJM:ed
70369.9

Attached: Version of Amended Paragraphs Showing Changes

Enclosed: (3) Amended drawing sheets (Figures 1-9)
(4) Drawing sheets with changes marked in red (Figures 1-9)

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Version of Amended Paragraphs Showing Changes FEB 20 2003

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The paragraph beginning on line 2 of page 7 has been amended as follows:


A --Referring to the drawings in particular, Figure 1 shows an underwater pelletizer generally designated 1, which pelletizer is advantageously provided with a knife blade part 10 or a knife blade part 110 according to the invention. The underwater pelletizer die includes a pelletizer cooling passage structure or cap 2 that has a coolant flow entry 3 and a coolant flow exit 5. The cap 2 is connected to a pelletizer housing 4 which has a pelletizer cap bearing [6] 6' supporting a shaft 8. The cap 2 defines a coolant passage which may be formed with the pelletizer cap bearing [6] 6' having a seal 7 for the shaft 8. The shaft 8 is connected to a cutting head 9 which supports a plurality of knife blade parts 10 (or 110). A pelletizer housing bearing 6 located in the pelletizer housing 4, supports the shaft 8 at a location which is spaced from the pelletizer cap bearing 6'. The spaced arrangement of the pelletizer cap bearing 6' and the pelletizer housing bearing 6 provide a stable support for the shaft 8 intended to minimize deflection of the cutting head 9.--

The paragraph beginning on line 2 of page 8 has been amended as follows:

Q2 --The knife blade body portion 14 of the knife blade part 10 includes a leading edge or knife edge 12 and an opposite trailing edge 20. The leading surfaces include the upper leading surface 28. In the example, upper leading surface 28 forms a 45° angle with respect to the general plane of the pelletizing die plate 210 (the plane of cutting). Although other angles are



possible, the 45° angle promotes a proper movement of the pellets away from the cutting face of the pelletizing die plate 210 while also providing good hydrodynamic qualities. The knife blade body portion 16 includes a lower side 18 which extends rearwardly from the knife edge 12. This surface 18 is somewhat recessed with respect to the knife edge 12 in the preferred embodiment (an undercut structure). Following the leading surfaces of the knife blade body portion 14, an upper transition zone is provided followed by the upper trailing surface 22 and a lower transition zone is provided followed by the lower trailing surface 24. The upper trailing surface 22 and the lower trailing surface 24 converge to form a hydrodynamically shaped blade body portion 14. These features are best seen in Figures 4 and 5.--



The original Appendix of the reference numbers has been amended as follows:

--APPENDIX

1 underwater pelletizer

2 pelletizer cooling passage structure or cap

3 coolant flow entry

4 housing

5 coolant flow exit

6 **pelletizer housing** bearing

6' **pelletizer cap** bearing

7 seal

8 shaft

9 cutting head

10 knife blade part

12 knife edge and leading edge


14 knife blade body portion

16 blade body connection portion

18 knife portion undersigned

20 trailing edge

22 upper trailing surface



24 lower trailing surface
26 knife part radially outer end
28 upper leading surface
32 connection fastener opening
34 connection fastener opening
110 knife blade part
112 knife edge and leading edge
114 knife blade body portion
116 blade body connection portion
118 knife portion undersigned
120 trailing edge
122 upper trailing surface
124 lower trailing surface
126 blade part radially outer end
128 upper leading surface
132 connection fastener opening
134 connection fastener opening
210 pelletizing die plate
212 extrusion orifice section
226 heat medium supply line
228 heat medium discharge
238 polymer channels--

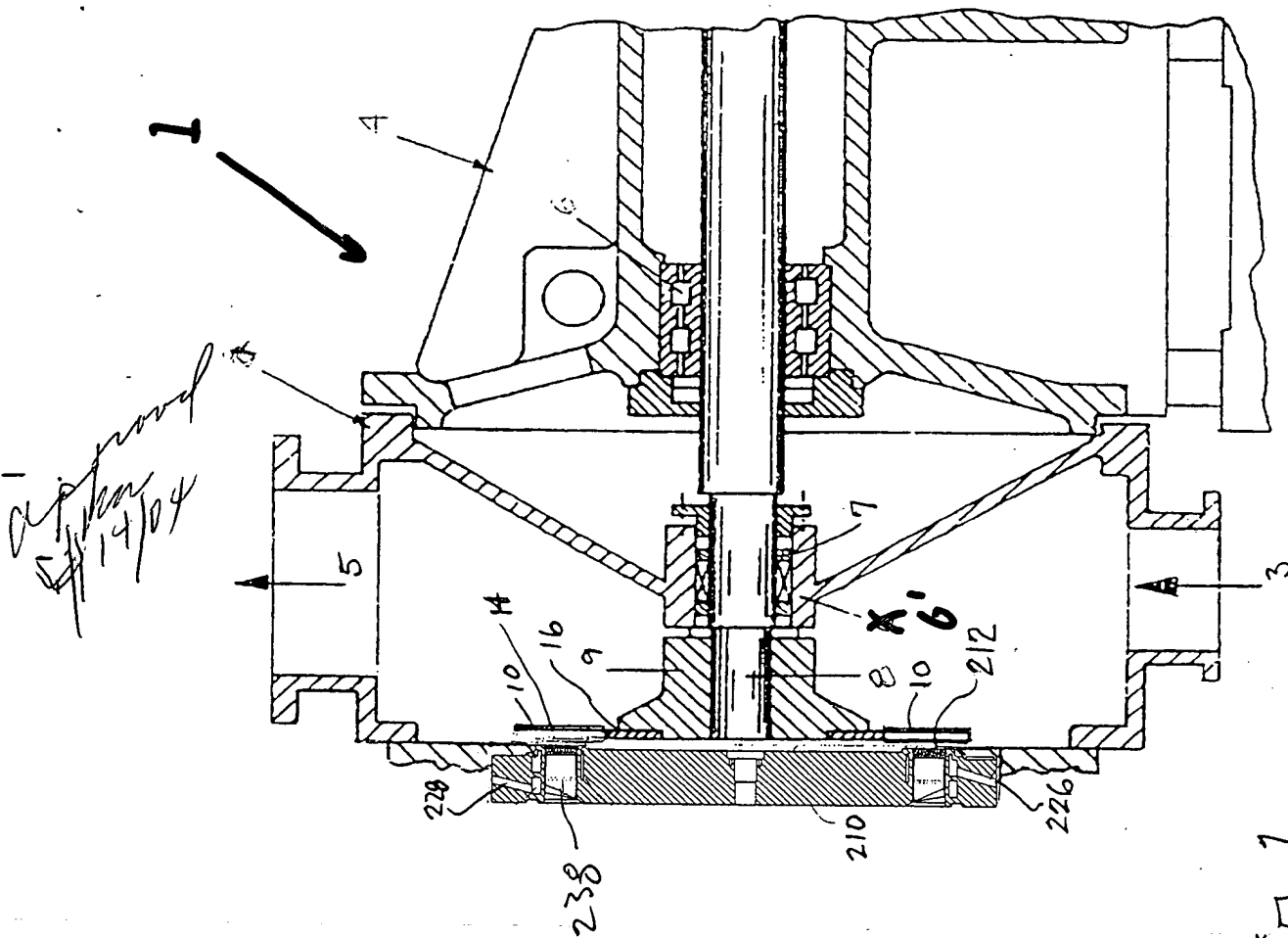
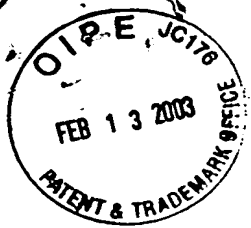
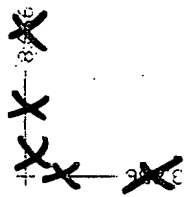


Fig. 1



110

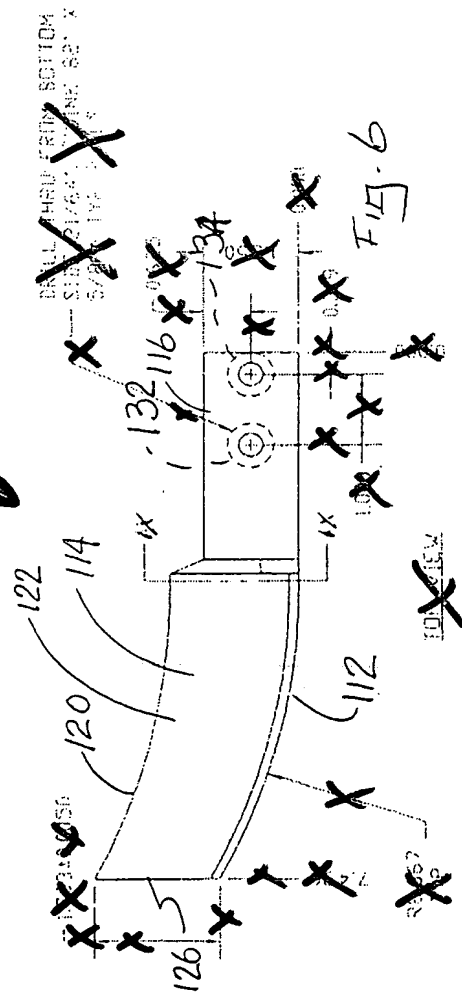


FIG. 6

